

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 1711**

House Bill 1711 will have significant impact on low-literate parents and their preschool children by allowing all school districts in Missouri to develop family literacy programs. Other provisions of the law give incentives to low performing school districts to offer family literacy programs as a strategy to improve.

This new law defines family literacy as a four-component model (Adult Education, Children's Education, Parent and Child Together and Parent Time), mirroring all federal literacy-related laws. School districts are now permitted to create family literacy programs for low-literate adults and their preschool children, and to use at-risk funding to support them. The law also cites family literacy as an area of critical need for professional development.

Also, beginning in Fiscal year 2005, 1.5% of the at-risk portion of the school funding formula will be used to fund family literacy programs in unaccredited and provisionally accredited school districts and academically schools.

The law requires the state board of education to produce an annual report to the general assembly and the governor concerning coordination with other agencies and departments of government that support family literacy programs and other services which influence education attainment of children of all ages.